

SITUATION REPORT NO. 7
INCIDENT NO. 2002- 007

DATE: January 23, 2002

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train Derailment – A large anhydrous ammonia plume enveloped significant portions of the Minot area when a 112-car train derailed on Friday, January 18.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Four patients are hospitalized in Trinity Medical Center but none remain in intensive care.
3. DAMAGES: The Canadian Pacific Railway reported 30 of the 31 derailed cars could not be salvaged and would be cut for scrap.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Salvation Army personnel served 75 meals both Friday and Saturday evening to responders at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the derailment site. The organization provided 10 meal vouchers to affected families.

This past weekend, personnel from the Minot Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) informed displaced families, located in the International Inn, that crisis counseling was available.

More than 75 people contacted the ARC for individual and family counseling. The Minot chapter will continue to provide counseling for residents and responders.

The ARC will post crisis counselors at the CP Rail Claims Center in the Dakota Square Mall.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: CP Rail crews have moved all cars from the derailment site to a staging area. Product in these cars is currently being off-loaded; upon completion, the empty units will be permanently removed from the staging area. Workmen finished the temporary section of track and today at 9:30 a.m., the first train was allowed to travel through the damage site at a speed of 10 miles per hour.

CP Rail has hired a contracting firm to test water in the Souris River. Sampling will occur 500 feet, one and one half miles, two and one half miles, and five miles downstream from derailment site. Samples will be collected every 12 hours and sent to Minnesota Valley Testing Lab in Bismarck. CP Rail will make test results

available to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). The Water Quality Section of the NDDoH is also conducting tests.

The NDDoH and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are organizing plans for the remediation of contaminated soil. Approximately six to eight monitoring wells will be drilled to maintain checks on soil and water quality. A geoprobe will be used to determine the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the anhydrous contamination.

Officials from the NDDoH, the First District Health Unit, and the EPA will conduct an informational meeting for residents tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the International Inn concerning the anhydrous ammonia release.

NDDoH and EPA personnel conducted air quality tests in the public school to ensure safety of students and employees.

In response to parental reports of ammonia odor on the clothing of children skating on outdoor rinks, the EPA took snow and ice samples from the rinks. The NDDoH will test the samples.

Some residents of the Terricta Vallejo Subdivision were escorted for a home visit, but local and state officials informed evacuated residents that a permanent move back to their homes may take up to six days.

The NDDoH will conduct two critical incident debriefing sessions on Sunday, January 25, at the Minot Auditorium for personnel from the Ward County Sheriff's Office, the Minot Rural Fire Department, and the Minot Fire Department.

The rapid response team consisting of fire department members from the Minot rural, the city of Minot and the Minot Air Force Base is no longer on scene.

The presence of fire, police, and emergency services' personnel in the EOC will end at 5:00 p.m. today. Agencies involved with cleanup and recovery will continue to locate there. The emergency operations center will now be operational each day from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director